

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 252873

FOLLOWING REPEAT CANBERRA 7356 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 12 OCT 76.

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 7356

FROM AMBASSADOR HARGROVE FOR HUMMEL AND KATZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, ETRD, AS

SUBJ: U.S. IMPOSITION OF MEAT QUOTAS - SOME FURTHER
AUSTRLIAN REACTIONS

REF (A) CANBERRA 7325, (B) STATE 252290, (C) STATE 250913,
(D) CANBERRA 7309, (E) STATE 250107, (F) STATE 250122,
(G) KATZ-SMITH MEMCON, SEPT 13, 1976 "THE MEAT ISSUE"

1. IN WIDELY REPORTED SPEECH BEFORE UNITED GRAZIERS'
ASSOCIATION IN BISBANE, MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND
DEPUTY LEADER OF NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY, SINCLAIR, STRONGLY
CRITICAL OF U.S. ACTION IN IMPOSING MEAT QUOTAS.

2. SINCLAIR REPORTED AS SAYING THAT APPLICATION OF QUOTAS " IS
A BLATANT POLITICAL ACTION AND AGAINST THE SPIRIT, IF NOT THE
LETTER OF THE GATT." IN THIS CONNECTION, HE IS ALSO STATES TO
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HAVE CHARGED THAT PRESIDENTIAL DECISION WAS MADE WHILE

PRESIDENT FORD WAS CAMPAINING IN CATTLE STATES OF TEXAS
AND OKLAHOMA.

3. SINCLAIR ALSO ATTACKED CANADIAN EXPORT TO U.S., SAYING
"IT IS AUSTRALIA'S FIRM VIEW THAT IT IS CANADIAN SHIPMENTS
RATHER THAN ANY OTHER WHICH HAS NOW CAUSED THE U.S. ACTION.
THE CRITICAL ASPECTS OF THE QUOTAS IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH
THEY WILL BE APPLIED AGAINST CANADA, AND IN TURN WHETHER
CANADA APPLIES QUOTA RESTRICTIONS FOR BEEF COMING INTO HER
MARKETS."

4. SINCLAIR TOLD GRAZERS THAT AUSTRALIA HAD CAREFULLY
MONITORED SHIPMENTS OF BEEF TO U.S., AND SAID "IT IS TRUE
THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN BEEF SHIPPED
THROUGH MAYAGUEZ IN PUERTO RICO RISING FROM SOME 100 TONNES
IN 1975 TO NEARLY 23,000 TONNES SO FAR THIS YEAR. IT WAS WITH
THE U.S. APPROVAL," HE IS FURTHER REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, "AND
INDEED DIRECTLY AS A RESULT OF THEIR LEGISLATION THAT THESE
WERE LEFT OUTSIDE OF PERMITTED AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS."

5. SINCLAIR WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT WHILE THERE WAS
NO CERTAINTY ON AUSTRALIA'S SHIPMENTS FOR THE BALANCE OF THIS
YEAR, THERE SHOULD BE 73,800 TONNES TO BE SHIPPED (ELSEWHERE
DIFFERENTLY REPORTED AS 147.6 MILLION POUNDS --66,678 TONNES).
HE IS ALSO STATED TO HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN BEEF
INDUSTRY STANDS TO LOSE \$A1,00 FOR EVERY TONNE ITS QUOTA IS
REDUCED.

6. COMMENT: THE REACTIONS OF PRIME FRASER (CANBERRA 7325)
AND NOW SINCLAIR ARE AS WE EXPECTED, AND WILL CERTAINLY
BECOME MORE BITTER IF AUSTRALIAN QUOTA REDUCED BELOW LEVEL OF
COMMITMENT DISCUSSED IN KATZ-SMITH MEMCON, AUSTRALIAN REACTION
CONFIRMS MY BELIEF THAT ANY BREACH OF THIS COMMITMENT COULD BE
VERY COSTLY TO U.S. INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA (CANBERRA 7309).
HARGROVE
UNQTE: ROBINSON

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